

Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara AVA Fact Sheet



Acreage: 23,941 acres

Planted: 1996-2001

First Vintage: 2001

AVA Designation: Achieved November, 2009

Orientation: Located in the easternmost end of the Santa Ynez Valley, north and west of Lake Cachuma. The area descends in elevation northeast to southwest.

Soil: A mixture of loam and clay loam with red and yellow chert and serpentine cobbles. In general, the soils are low in nutrients and thus grow smaller vines that produce high quality wine grapes.

Climate: The warmest micro-climate in the Santa Ynez Valley. Mid-morning fog lifts to sunshine. Summertime temperatures in the low to mid-nineties.

Varietals: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Sauvignon Blanc, Malbec, and Petit Verdot as well as many Rhône varietals like Syrah.

Vineyards: Cimarone, Grassini, Happy Canyon Vineyard, McGinley, Star Lane, and Vogelzang Vineyards.

Name: During the Prohibition a simple alcohol was produced in Happy Canyon. Legend has it that folks would “take a trip up Happy Canyon” to purchase the beverage and the name stuck.